MULTI AWARD WINNING!

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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWS
The UK and France make major pact
p2

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Thrilling fantasy novel
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July 25, 2025 • Vol. 6, Issue 275 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

Stepping into HISTORY

Find out about the first NASA astronauts who walked on the Moon p12

DID YOU KNOW?

- The first Moon landing took place on July 20, 1969.
- Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the lunar surface.
- Their world-famous mission was called Apollo 11.

Buzz Aldrin leaving the Lunar Module Eagle to step onto the Moon

DID YOU KNOW?
In 1904, the UK and France signed an agreement called the Entente Cordiale, establishing the start of a friendship between the countries.

Keir Starmer (left) and Emmanuel Macron

What is the Chunnel?

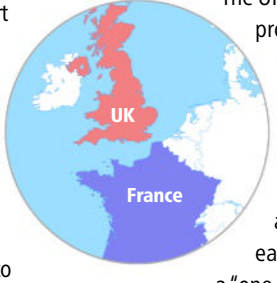
The Channel Tunnel, known as the Chunnel (above), is a rail tunnel that runs under the English Channel, linking the UK and France. At a length of 31.5 miles, it is the world's longest undersea tunnel. The idea for it was first proposed in 1802, but construction didn't begin until 1988. It took 13,000 workers to build it, and it opened in 1994.

UK and France make historic pact

From July 8 to 10, the UK hosted France for an official three-day state visit that yielded major agreements between the nations, including pacts on defense and immigration.

What happened?

Emmanuel Macron, president of France, traveled to the UK, where he attended a banquet at Windsor Castle hosted by King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Macron then engaged in discussions with Keir Starmer, the UK's prime minister (similar to a president). A main topic was the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. France and the UK, along with many other European nations, support Ukraine and are worried that Russia could gain too much power. Macron and Starmer also discussed increasing military support for each other's countries. This is in response to the shifting role of the US in European affairs. Traditionally, the US has provided military support for its allies in Europe, but President Donald Trump has recently said that European nations need to do more to defend themselves, rather than rely on the US.



What did the nations agree on?

France and the UK are the two countries in Europe with the most nuclear weapons, and on July 10, they agreed to a historic nuclear defense pact called the Northwood Declaration. Under the agreement, the nations would work together to deploy these powerful weapons if they or their allies faced an extreme threat from another nation. France and the UK also took part in a video call with other European leaders to continue building a "coalition of the willing"—a group of European nations trying to secure peace between Ukraine and Russia. The countries will work to form a European military force of up to 50,000 troops that will have its headquarters in Paris. If a peace deal happens in Ukraine, the troops could help to ensure that Russia honors it.

What else did they agree on?

The UK and France unveiled a new program to address an influx of migrants who are illegally crossing the English Channel from France to England in small boats. This summer, more than 800 people have been attempting these dangerous treks each week. The nations established a "one in, one out" agreement, under which about 50 migrants will be safely returned from England to France per week. In exchange, England will accept about the same number of people from France who are legally seeking asylum (protection given to refugees by another government). The agreement is the first of its kind for the two countries.

How did people react?

Macron expressed his appreciation for the UK's partnership. "The only way to overcome the challenges we have, the challenges of our times, would be to go together, hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder," he said. Starmer said the agreements signal to the world that the two nations will forcefully defend each other and their allies. "Our adversaries will know that any extreme threat to this continent would prompt a response from our two nations," Starmer said. "There is no greater demonstration of the importance of this relationship." King Charles III echoed that sentiment. "Our two countries face a multitude of more complex threats, emanating from multiple directions," he said. "As friends and as allies, we face them together." Some humanitarian groups have criticized the "one in, one out" program, however, saying it does not fully ensure the safety of migrants trying to reach the UK or France.

What will happen next?

The agreements will be finalized after they are reviewed by legal teams for France, the UK, and the European Union (EU, a group of 27 nations that includes France but not the UK). Officials said they will launch a trial of the new immigration policy in the coming weeks.

Malaria drug for babies approved

The first malaria drug for newborn babies and young infants has been approved for use and is set to be rolled out in eight African countries. Called Coartem Baby or Riamet Baby, the treatment was created by the Swiss drug company Novartis with help from Medicines for Malaria Venture and the Gates Foundation, two nonprofits.

Malaria is a disease that is spread to humans by mosquitoes. In 2023, about 597,000 people died worldwide due to malaria. A majority of cases were in Africa, and 75% of them were children under age 5. Previously, babies were treated with smaller doses of drugs designed for older children. This isn't always effective because their bodies are still developing and process medicines differently.

The new medicine can be dissolved in liquid and has a cherry flavor to appeal to children. Novartis said it will make it as affordable and accessible as possible. Vas Narasimhan, the head of the company, said the treatment will ensure that "even the smallest and most vulnerable can finally receive the care they deserve."

Waiting for malaria medicine

MEET THE FAMILY
Moo Deng has two siblings: Moo Toon, which means "stewed pork," and Moo Waan, which means "sweet pork."

Moo Deng eating her birthday cake

Big birthday for famous pygmy hippo

Moo Deng, a pygmy hippopotamus who became known worldwide, celebrated her first birthday at Khao Kheow Open Zoo in Chonburi, Thailand, on July 10. Thousands of people traveled from around the world to enjoy four days of festivities.

Moo Deng became a global sensation last year after zookeepers shared videos of the calf squealing, waddling, and being hosed down. Her name, which means "bouncy pork" in Thai, was chosen by more than 20,000 fans in an online vote. Today, Moo Deng has about 3 million followers on TikTok.

Moo Deng currently weighs 205 pounds. When she is fully grown, she will weigh between 350 and 600 pounds and stand about 30 to 40 inches tall at the shoulder. Her fame has helped raise awareness about pygmy hippos, a rare and endangered species with 2,000 to 3,000 left in the wild, mostly in West Africa. Zoo director Narongwit Chodchoy said attendance has quadrupled since Moo Deng went viral. "Moo Deng is a representative of all wild animals," he told the Associated Press.

On the first day of Moo Deng's birthday celebration, 12,000 visitors arrived at the zoo from as far away as the US and Malaysia. Fans sang to her as a 44-pound cake made of fruits and vegetables was placed near her pond. Visitors snapped photographs of Moo Deng splashing with her mother, Jona.

"She's an icon and everyone in the world loves her," said Molly Swindall, who flew in from New York to see Moo Deng for the third time and helped prepare her birthday breakfast. "Fame hasn't changed her."

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

CELEBRATING EMOJIS

July 17 marks the 12th annual World Emoji Day, which takes place on the date that appears on the calendar emoji. "We 💖 love emojis. You 💙 love emojis. Let's 🎉 celebrate them!" said the special event's creators.

A RECORD-BREAKING CHEESE

The cheese

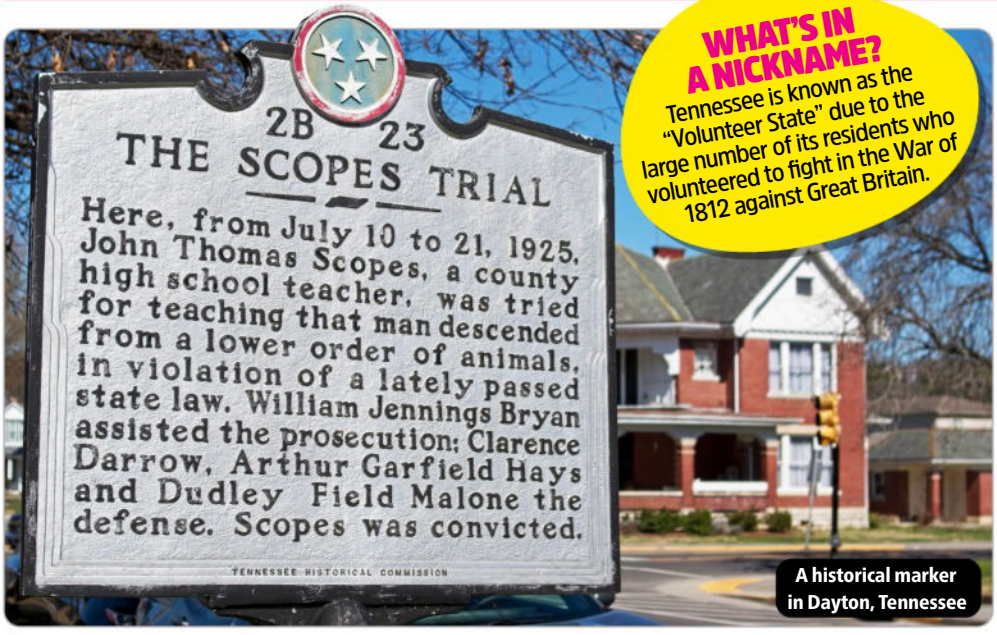
It was a "dairy" good day for a cheesemaker in Spain. A restaurant paid $42,232 for a big chunk of cheese called Cabrales, making it the most expensive cheese ever sold at auction. Made with cow's milk, it was aged for 10 months in a cave nearly 5,000 feet above sea level.

AN ANIMAL RESCUE

A tiny pronghorn fawn that was found hungry and dehydrated in New Mexico is now safe and healthy at the San Diego Zoo in California. Zookeepers there are equipped to care for the rare species, which looks like a deer but is related to giraffes. The rescue operation involved wildlife experts in both states.

The pronghorn fawn

ON THE COVER: MSFC/NASA; GETTY IMAGES (2); ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS; COURTESY OF SAN DIEGO ZOO WILDLIFE ALLIANCE; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); EUROSTAR


2B 23
THE SCOPES TRIAL
Here, from July 10 to 21, 1925, John Thomas Scopes, a county high school teacher, was tried for teaching that man descended from a lower order of animals, in violation of a lately passed state law. William Jennings Bryan assisted the prosecution; Clarence Darrow, Arthur Garfield Hays and Dudley Field Malone the defense. Scopes was convicted.
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
A historical marker in Dayton, Tennessee

WHAT'S IN A NICKNAME?
Tennessee is known as the "Volunteer State" due to the large number of its residents who volunteered to fight in the War of 1812 against Great Britain.

Inherit the Wind

The Scopes trial inspired a play called *Inherit the Wind*, written by Jerome Lawrence and Robert Edwin Lee. Five years after the play's 1955 stage debut, it was adapted into a movie starring Spencer Tracy (above), who was nominated for an Oscar for his portrayal of Clarence Darrow, the lawyer for John Scopes.

Famous court case is remembered

The US has marked the 100th anniversary of a high-profile court case in Tennessee that debated the role of religion in public schools. The observance is meaningful because some of the issues that were discussed are still debated today.

What was the controversy?

In 1925, the Tennessee legislature passed a law making it illegal to teach evolution in public schools. Evolution is the scientific term that explains how a species changes over time. It had been introduced as a theory in the late 1800s by famous scientist Charles Darwin, who showed that humans and primates shared a common ancestor, from which they evolved. The law was passed because some people, including many Christians, didn't believe in evolution. They believed humans were created by God as described in the Bible. On May 7, 1925, John Scopes, a teacher in Dayton, Tennessee, was arrested for breaking the law.

What was the court trial?

In the State of Tennessee v. John Scopes, the teacher was represented by Clarence Darrow, a prominent lawyer. Darrow argued that the law was illegal because it promoted a religious view, which goes against the Constitution (highest US law). Tennessee was represented by Williams Jennings Bryan, a popular politician. The trial began on July 10 and gripped the nation because it was the first to be aired live on the radio. After the lawyers stated their cases, the jury met for nine minutes before finding Scopes guilty. The verdict meant Tennessee could continue to ban the teaching of evolution.

How is it relevant today?

In 1968, the US Supreme Court (top court of law) ruled that evolution can be taught in schools. The law stands today, but the role of religion in schools is still debated. For example, some states, such as Texas, have passed laws in recent years requiring classrooms to display the Ten Commandments (religious laws from the Bible). These laws have sparked legal challenges from others who say that religion should be separate from school.

How was the anniversary marked?

The city of Dayton is marking the anniversary in a variety of ways. An exhibit about the case is on view at the Rhea County Heritage and Scopes Trial Museum, and a dinner on July 19 will include a dramatization of the trial.

WORD OF THE WEEK

JUPITER

The largest planet in our solar system takes its name from the king of the gods in Roman mythology. Jupiter was also known as Jove, which comes from the Latin *Jovis pater* ("Father Jove"). He was the god of the sky, thunder, and lightning and viewed as the protector of the Roman state.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

July 23, 2010
Pop band One Direction forms

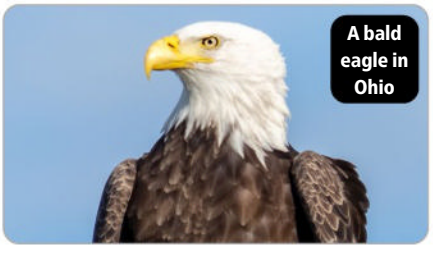
On July 23, 2010, the pop band One Direction formed. Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, Liam Payne, Harry Styles, and Louis Tomlinson appeared on a British talent show, and the show's judges decided they would make a great band. In the US, the first four of their studio albums debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard charts—the first group to achieve that status. In 2016, the performers began pursuing solo careers.

One Direction

A bin at airport security

Change to airport screening

All passengers at US airports can now keep their shoes on while passing through security checkpoints. Kristi Noem, the Secretary of Homeland Security who oversees the TSA (Transportation Security Administration), ended the "shoes-off" policy on July 8. Since 2006, removing shoes has been a requirement before boarding an airplane in the US. Noem said people will still need to go through several layers of security to make traveling safe.

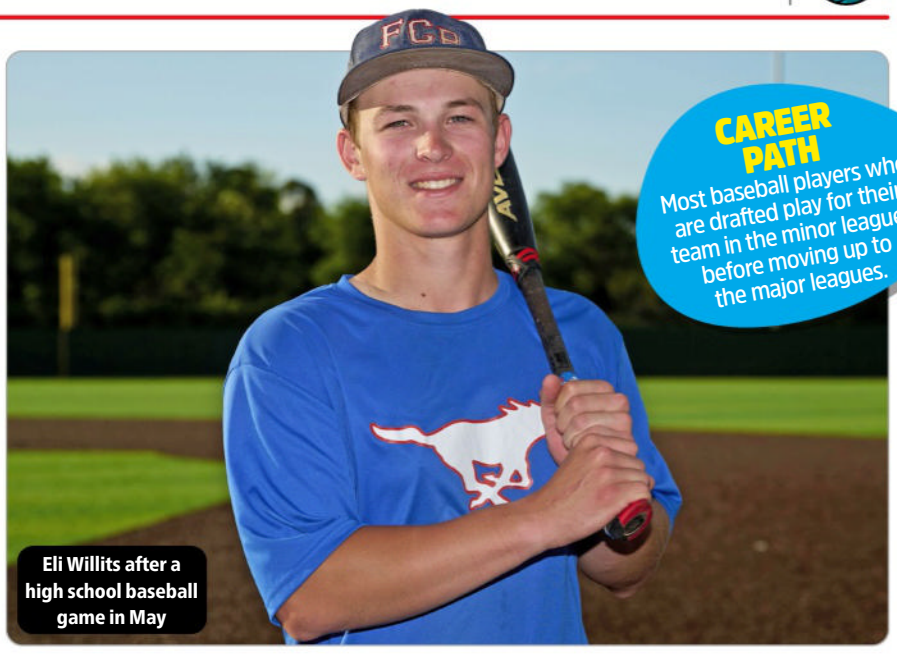

A bald eagle in Ohio

More eagles thriving in Ohio

The number of active bald eagle nests has risen to 964 in Ohio, an increase of 36% since 2020, state officials reported. Most of the active nests, defined as containing eggs, eaglets, or an incubating egg, are located in wetland areas, such as along Lake Erie. Bald eagles, classified as endangered until 2007, should continue to thrive in Ohio as waterways become less polluted, experts said.

New Barbie with type 1 diabetes

Mattel, the toy company, has revealed its first Barbie with type 1 diabetes. About 304,000 children in the US live with the condition, which causes the pancreas to make little to no insulin, an essential hormone. Wearing a blue outfit symbolizing diabetes awareness, the doll comes with an insulin pump and a glucose monitor, which help treat the disease, and a purse to carry supplies. Mattel said its goal is to foster "a greater sense of inclusion and empathy."


Eli Willits after a high school baseball game in May

CAREER PATH
Most baseball players who are drafted play for their team in the minor leagues before moving up to the major leagues.

Major League Baseball holds 2025 draft

At the MLB (Major League Baseball) Draft on July 13 and 14, the Washington Nationals had the first pick and chose Eli Willits, age 17, a high school player from Oklahoma. Willits is the third-youngest player in history to be drafted first overall and the youngest since Ken Griffey Jr. in 1987. The event took place at Coca-Cola Roxy, a concert venue in Cumberland, Georgia, and was broadcast live on ESPN and streamed on MLB.com.

In the annual draft, teams choose players to join the MLB from high school or college. The order in which teams select players is generally based on their records from the previous season. Teams with the worst records usually get the first picks, and that order is determined by a lottery system. The Nationals, who had a 71–91 record last season, won the first pick that way. Better teams typically choose last. The Los Angeles Dodgers, the 2024 World Series champions, had the 30th and final pick in the first round.

The logo for this year's MLB Draft

The Nationals said they chose Willits because he's the "best hitter" and "best fielder" in the draft. Last year, he compiled a .473 batting average, with 8 home runs and 34 runs batted in, and helped Fort Cobb-Broxton High School win its sixth consecutive Oklahoma state championship.

The Los Angeles Angels had the second pick, and they scooped up Tyler Bremner, a pitcher for the University of California, Santa Barbara. Louisiana State University's Kade Anderson, who was named the Most Outstanding Player of this year's College World Series, was the third pick, chosen by the Seattle Mariners. The Colorado Rockies had the 4th pick, and they chose Ethan Holliday, a high school player and son of Matt Holliday, who played six seasons with the Rockies in the MLB. In total, 615 players were drafted.

"Every kid's dream is to be the number one overall pick," said Willits, adding that he hopes to be described as a hard worker who is good to his teammates and others on and off the field.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Blueberry spill causes literal 'traffic jam' in British Columbia" *UPI*

MIKE JAMES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES VIA AP; MLB; GETTY IMAGES (3); MATTEL; ON LEFT PAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK; GETTY IMAGES (3)

Around the world

Paramaribo, Suriname
First female president elected

On July 6, Suriname's parliament (similar to Congress) elected Jennifer Geerlings-Simons as the country's first female president. Geerlings-Simons is the leader of the National Democratic Party (NDP), which won the most seats in a May election. In order to have enough seats to control parliament, the NDP agreed to share power with five other parties in a coalition (group of political parties working together).

Caracol, Belize
Tomb of ancient ruler unearthed

The tomb of a ruler of the ancient Maya civilization has been discovered at the Caracol archaeological site in Belize. Experts identified the ruler as Te K'ab Chaak, the first king of Caracol, who founded a dynasty that ruled for 460 years. The 1,700-year-old tomb contained jewelry, pottery, and a rare mosaic mask. It showed influences from Teotihuacán, an ancient city 750 miles to the north, suggesting early contact between the two groups.

Santa Cruz, Argentina
Glacier gets smaller

Scientists say the Perito Moreno Glacier in Argentina is shrinking. A glacier is a large, slow-moving body of ice. Global warming has caused many glaciers to shrink, but Perito Moreno stayed the same size until recently. Now research has shown that the glacier is getting thinner by 26 feet per year. Over the past seven years, it has lost almost a square mile of ice cover.

Paris, France
Nature on the runway

Haute Couture ("High Fashion") Week took place from July 7–10. At this annual event, designers show off their most creative fashions. Viktor & Rolf showed a collection called Angry Birds, which included fake feathers. Iris van Herpen made an outfit with 125 million glowing algae (tiny sea creatures) and seawater enclosed in a special gel.

Florence, Italy
Tourist vehicle ban

Florence is set to ban golf carts and rickshaws from the city center in response to disruptions caused by tourism. As the small vehicles carry tourists around the city, they can clog up the streets. If the rule receives final approval, only authorized tourist shuttles would be allowed into the area around the cathedral and the Palazzo Vecchio (an ancient government building). Other vehicles entering the area could be removed.

CARACOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT/UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON; SHUTTERSTOCK (2); GETTY IMAGES (4); ALAMY; REUTERS; HONG KONG HOME AND YOUTH AFFAIRS BUREAU

Paul Biya

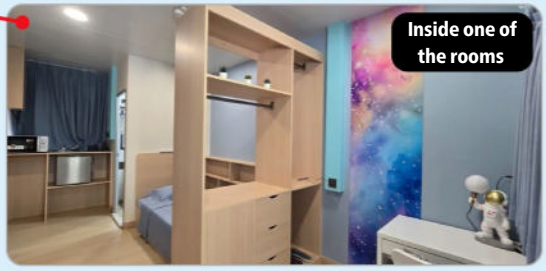
Cameroon
Leader seeks eighth term

On July 13, Cameroon's president, Paul Biya, announced that he will run for an eighth term in October. Biya, age 92, is the world's oldest head of state. In 2008, he eliminated the term limit for presidents. Biya won his last race in 2018 with more than 71% of the vote, but other parties claimed it wasn't a fair election.

A homemade air cooler

Kandahar, Afghanistan
A creative way to keep taxis cool

In Kandahar, many taxi drivers have attached handmade cooling systems to the roofs of their vehicles. Temperatures in the city sometimes exceed 104º F, and taxi drivers say their vehicles' air-conditioning systems often break down. Since fixing the air-conditioning can be too expensive, some drivers have turned to custom rooftop coolers. The devices are filled with water to cool the air, which is then blown in through the car window.


Inside one of the rooms

Kai Tak, Hong Kong
Youth housing opens for trial run

A former Covid-19 quarantine facility in Hong Kong has been turned into a youth hostel. Known as Runway 1331 because it is on the site of a former airport, the building is designed to provide housing for thousands of people. On July 13, it opened for a trial period, offering 250 rooms at $25 a night. The project is part of a government program with the goal of providing affordable accommodation for young people.

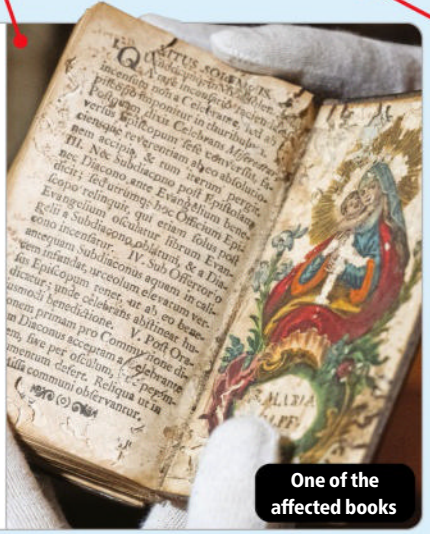
Striking workers

India
Workers stage protest over new laws

Hundreds of thousands of workers across India went on strike (refusal to work as a form of protest) on July 9. The workers were protesting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new laws, which they say will make working hours longer and legal strikes harder to organize. The one-day action disrupted public transportation, postal services, banking, electricity, and mining.

Pannonhalma, Hungary
Beetles chew up books

Pannonhalma Archabbey, a religious building that contains Hungary's oldest library, has an infestation of book-eating insects. Drugstore beetles (also called bread beetles) usually eat grains, flour, and spices, but they are also attracted to some of the ingredients found in book pages and bindings. Workers are putting 100,000 of the abbey's 400,000 books in crates to disinfect them.


One of the affected books

Is it OK to go swimming with wildlife?

It can be a great experience, but some say it's better to leave wild animals alone.

What you need to know

- **The World Register of Marine Species found that there are nearly 248,000 known wildlife species in the sea.**
- **According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), up to 37% of the world's sharks and rays and 44% of corals that build reefs are at risk of extinction.**
- **Tourism companies around the world take people out on boats to see—and sometimes swim with—dolphins, turtles, whale sharks, and other sea creatures in their natural habitat.**

NATURAL TEACHERS
Dolphins are so smart that they can learn a skill and teach it to others of their species.

GETTY IMAGES

Many people travel in the summer, and one popular vacation activity is swimming with marine animals in the wild. You can sign up to get close to dolphins, sea lions, stingrays, and whale sharks. For people who love and admire wildlife, this is a rare chance to see amazing animals in their natural habitat. But some wildlife experts argue that it's not fair to the animals because—even though they are free to go away—human interaction disturbs their day-to-day life and could have unintended effects on a species' behavior and even population. What do you think? Is it OK to go swimming with wildlife?

Yes—it benefits animals and people

When people swim alongside creatures in the wild, the animals aren't trapped in a tank or pool. They're free to leave if they want to, and they often do. And many tour companies have strict rules, like no touching, to keep the animals safe. Letting people swim with animals can also raise awareness of climate change and the loss of marine species. Seeing these incredible creatures up close encourages people to respect and protect them and their environment. And finally, wildlife tourism supports many communities and families. If it's eliminated, people will lose their livelihoods.

No—it's not fair to the animals

Humans can have a profound effect on marine life like dolphins and whales. When people swim with them, it can put the animals under stress and disrupt their natural behavior. For example, marine wildlife conservation experts say that swimming tours can make dolphins abandon their usual feeding and breeding areas. Besides, wildlife is just that—wild. The animals haven't been trained to interact with humans. If they feel threatened, they might act unpredictably, which could be risky for them and for tourists. Also, the boats that are used to take people to see these creatures pollute the water and can even bump into the animals.

YES Three reasons it is OK to go swimming with wildlife

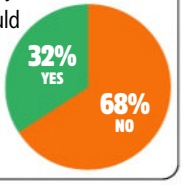
1. **There are rules to keep the animals safe, and they're not in captivity, so they can leave if they feel threatened by people.**
2. **Seeing wildlife up close will motivate people to work to protect them.**
3. **Many people earn a living from these experiences, so putting an end to them would affect people's livelihoods.**

NO Three reasons it is not OK to go swimming with wildlife

1. **Animals can feel stress and change their natural behavior due to swimming tours.**
2. **Wildlife is unpredictable, which means the experiences could be dangerous for tourists in the water and for the animals.**
3. **Most wildlife swimming tours use boats, which are loud and fast, can injure animals, and produce harmful pollution.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if it's OK for restaurants to set an age limit. Most of you said no, eateries should not be able to keep young kids from dining.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think it is OK to go swimming with wildlife or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

Hometown honors TV star

The *Abbott Elementary* creator receives a tribute at her childhood school.

Quinta Brunson, an award-winning actor and TV writer, has spent years highlighting public education with *Abbott Elementary*, a sitcom about a fictional school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, her hometown. Now Brunson has been honored with a symbolic key to the city and a mural at her former elementary school, the one that inspired her hit show.

Acting on the show

Brunson began making people laugh at age 3 by imitating TV characters for her siblings. She attended Temple University but left to pursue a comedy career. She gained a following with a comedic video series, which led to writing and producing roles at BuzzFeed and on sketch TV shows.

Brunson's breakthrough came in 2021 with *Abbott Elementary*, a mockumentary-style sitcom (funny fictional documentary) in which she stars as second-grade teacher Janine Teagues. Her inspiration for the series came from her mother's 40-year career as a public school teacher and her former sixth-grade teacher, Joyce Abbott, the show's namesake. It follows the ups and downs of working in an underfunded school and has earned many honors, including a Peabody Award and four Emmys.

The new mural, *Blooming Futures*, was painted by local artist Athena Scott with help from the city's student arts program. It shows Brunson smiling with teachers and kids. She loved seeing Philadelphia's murals as a child, especially one that depicted a teacher of hers, and wanted her mural to show real people too. "You don't need to see famous people on the wall. You need to see you," Brunson said at the unveiling. "Even if it makes a difference for just one child, that one child matters."

Quinta Brunson

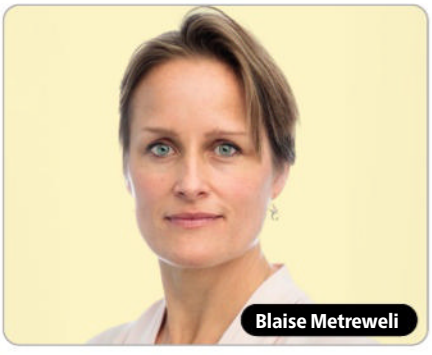
AWARD WINNER

In 2023, Quinta Brunson became the first Black woman in more than 40 years to win the Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series.

A new latte legend

Nobuki Shimode, a Starbucks store manager in Japan, has won the company's first global barista championship, recently held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The contest brought together 12 baristas selected from 84,000 applicants. Shimode had eight minutes to brew coffee, prepare latte art, and create a signature drink: Blooming Yuzu Espresso. He said his goal is to bring customers comfort—like the feeling he got from the coffee his mother made for him before big tests. As the champion, he will co-create a new beverage for Starbucks stores.

Nobuki Shimode



Blaise Metreweli

The next spy chief

British spy Blaise Metreweli has been named the next chief of MI6, the UK's secret intelligence service. She will be the first woman to hold the top position at the agency in its 116-year history. Metreweli joined MI6 in 1999 and currently leads its technology division in a role known as "Q," a nod to the character in the James Bond films who designs spy gadgets. She will step into the position later this year and oversee MI6's efforts to gather intelligence and protect the UK. "I am proud and honored to be asked to lead my service," Metreweli said.

OVERHEARD

"My goal this summer is to get both of my kids to learn how to drive a stick."

Race-car driving champion Jeff Gordon, who co-produced the new racing documentary *American Thunder: Nascar to Le Mans*

GETTY IMAGES (2); DISNEY/GILLES MINGASSON; STARBUCKS COFFEE COMPANY; UNITED KINGDOM FOREIGN OFFICE VIA AP

A humpback whale

Giving rights to whales

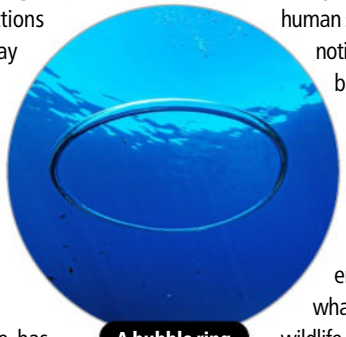
Tonga, an island country in the Pacific Ocean, is working on a law that would recognize whales as legal "persons." This would officially give whales the right to live, migrate, and have a healthy habitat. A group of people would represent the whales in court and recommend conservation actions.

A whale in Tonga

Whales blow bubble rings at humans

If humpback whales see humans out on the water, they may send a special bubble in our direction. Scientists recently recorded evidence of humpback whales creating ring-shaped bubbles during friendly interactions with humans. This behavior may be a form of play or communication.

Humpback whales are known for their long, complex songs, which seem to help them communicate with one another. The SETI Institute, an organization that searches for signs of alien life in the universe, has been studying the whales' songs and behavior to gain insights into how other species might try to communicate with humans.


A bubble ring

Jodi Frediani, one of the leaders of a new study by the SETI Institute and the University of California, Davis, explained that humpbacks often exhibit friendly behavior toward boats and human swimmers. When researchers noticed that the whales were blowing ring-shaped bubbles underwater, they decided to examine the behavior further. At scientific conferences and on social media, they asked people to share stories of encounters with humpback whales. Then they interviewed wildlife researchers and gathered photos and videos of whale encounters.

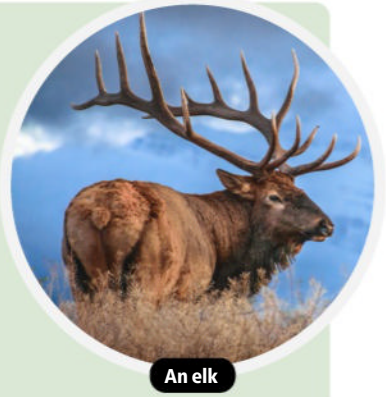
With this data, the scientists identified 12 instances in which 11 different humpback whales made a total of 39 bubble rings. The whales were from populations around the world. Frediani explained that most of the animals "voluntarily approached boats and swimmers blowing bubble rings during these episodes of curious behavior." Humpbacks have previously been observed creating bubbles when hunting prey or courting a female mate, but this is the first time scientists have confirmed that whales make bubble rings during encounters with humans.

Experts still aren't sure why whales blow bubbles at people, but they think the animals may be seeking connection or a reaction. "Humpback whales live in complex societies," said Fred Sharpe, a co-leader of the study. "They are blowing bubble rings in our direction in an apparent attempt to playfully interact, observe our response, and/or engage in some form of communication."

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma

Spanning more than 59,000 acres, the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma was established in the early 1900s. The landscape is primarily mixed grass prairie lands, while the Wichita Mountains are towering formations of granite. Early in the refuge's history, bison were brought back to the area and Rocky Mountain elk were introduced. These species can still be seen grazing in the refuge today, along with a herd of Texas longhorn cattle. Oklahoma's state reptile, the "mountain boomer" or common collared lizard, also lives in the area.


An elk

SPECIAL TALENT
Cats have an organ in the roof of their mouth that can detect chemical signals humans can't smell.

Pet cats may recognize a familiar scent.

Can cats sniff out their owners?

Pet cats can tell the difference between the scent of their owner and the scent of a stranger, according to a study from the Tokyo University of Agriculture in Japan.

To conduct their research, the team used swabs that had been rubbed in the armpit, behind the ear, and between the toes of cat owners and strangers. The swabs were presented to 30 cats in three sets of plastic tubes. The first set had swabs containing the scent of their owner, the second had swabs with the odor of a person the cats didn't know, and the third set of tubes were empty.

The cats in the experiment spent much longer sniffing the odors of unknown people compared to those of their owner or the empty tube. This suggests that cats can recognize the smells of people who are familiar to them but are more intrigued by the scents of people they have never met.

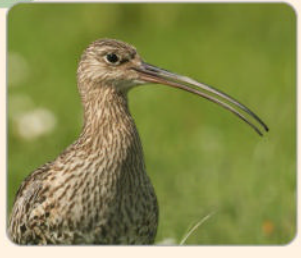
The team said that these results don't prove that cats can identify specific people by their scent and that the smelling abilities of cats should be investigated in future studies.

Animal of the week: Luna moth

Scientists have figured out the purpose of the long, thin tails that hang from a luna moth's back wings. A new study found that the insects developed these fluttery streamers as a form of protection—they confuse bats that try to eat the moths.

- **LIFE SPAN:** About one week
- **HABITAT:** Woodlands in North America
- **SIZE:** Wingspan of 3 to 4 inches
- **DIET:** Larvae eat leaves, but adults do not eat
- **FUN FACT:** A female luna moth can lay more than 200 eggs at a time, usually on a leaf.

Good week / Bad week



Curlews

At Elmley Nature Reserve on the UK's Isle of Sheppey, 39 curlew chicks have hatched. Curlews are one of England's most endangered birds. The chicks will be released into the wild to boost the local curlew population.

Emperor penguins

Satellite images of 16 emperor penguin colonies in Antarctica suggest that their population has decreased by 22% since 2009. Experts blame the decline on shrinking sea ice, which the penguins use for breeding and hunting.

Enter *The Week Junior*'s Nature Photo Contest!

Do you love taking photographs of plants, flowers, trees, and wildlife? Now is your chance to use your creativity, curiosity, and skills to enter *The Week Junior*'s Nature Photo Contest. The entry form for 8- to 10-year-olds is at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-2025PhotoContest-8-10 and 11- to 14-year-olds is at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-2025PhotoContest-11-14. Winning entries will be featured in a September 2025 issue of the magazine. See the official rules at theweekjunior.com/photocontestrules.

The deadline to enter is July 28.

GETTY IMAGES (5); ON LEFT PAGE, GETTY IMAGES (5)

One triumphant leap

The first footsteps on the Moon were a feat of science and imagination.

The Apollo 11 mission made history and inspired people all over the world when it landed the first person on the Moon on July 20, 1969.

The race begins

On July 29, 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Act that created NASA was signed into law by President Dwight Eisenhower (above, second from left, with NASA leaders). The agency opened on October 1. At the time, the US and the Soviet Union (former nation made up of Russia and other countries) were rivals in a competitive "space race." On May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy announced an ambitious goal for the US: landing a man on the Moon by the end of the decade.

The Apollo 7 crew: Donn Eisele, Walter Schirra Jr., and Walter Cunningham

Early missions

Before the Apollo program, there was the Mercury program, followed by the Gemini program, which sent 10 crews to space. The Apollo 1 mission ended in a deadly fire during a pre-flight test. Apollo 7, the first crewed flight of the Apollo program, successfully launched on October 11, 1968. Apollo 8 was the first mission to fly humans to the Moon, although they did not land on the lunar surface. This was followed by Apollo 9, which tested a lunar spacecraft in Earth's orbit. Apollo 10 was the second mission to orbit the Moon.

MUST-SEE TELEVISION
About 650 million people around the globe watched the 1969 Moon landing on TV.

US astronaut Buzz Aldrin walks on the Moon in this famous photo taken by mission commander Neil Armstrong. Inset: the Apollo 11 insignia worn by the crew.

GETTY IMAGES (5); NASA (2)

in exploration

NAME ORIGIN
In Greek mythology, Apollo was the son of Zeus and Artemis was his twin sister.

SWINGS IN SPACE
Astronaut Alan Shepard hit two golf balls on the Moon during the Apollo 14 mission in 1971.

Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin

Landing on the Moon

Apollo 11, crewed by Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins, launched from Cape Kennedy (now Cape Canaveral), Florida, on July 16, 1969. On July 20, Armstrong and Aldrin descended to the Moon's surface in a vehicle called the Lunar Module Eagle, while Collins stayed behind to pilot the Command Module. The pair landed at a site called the Sea of Tranquility, which was chosen for its fairly smooth surface. Armstrong became the first human to walk on the Moon. He famously said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Armstrong and Aldrin spent 2½ hours on the Moon's surface before they rejoined Collins. On July 24, the astronauts landed back on Earth in the Pacific Ocean, near Hawaii.

The Orion spacecraft

New frontiers

In total, 12 men walked on the Moon in six missions, the last being Apollo 17 in 1972. Apollo 13 was supposed to land on the Moon, but after an explosion in an oxygen tank, the astronauts were forced to return to Earth. Apollo 15 was the first to feature a Lunar Roving Vehicle, which allowed that mission's astronauts to explore a greater area than had been possible previously. In 2017, decades after the Apollo missions ended, NASA established the Artemis program. Possibly as soon as February 2026, Artemis II will send the first crewed flight around the Moon since the Apollo program. Inside the Orion spacecraft will be the first woman and first person of color to travel that far. In the program's next phase, Artemis III will aim to land humans on the Moon.

** It is a gold replica of an olive branch. It was left on the Moon's surface by the Apollo 11 crew as a symbolic gesture of peace for all humankind.*

CHEERFUL COLORS
A research study found that orange, white, yellow, and red flowers boost people's moods more than flowers of other colors.

Flowering plants are relatively new on Earth compared to other plants.

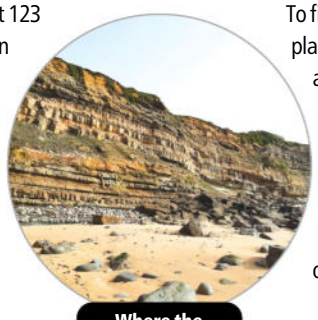
Solving an ancient flower puzzle

Determining when flowers first appeared on Earth has puzzled scientists for hundreds of years. Even Charles Darwin, the famous naturalist, called it "an abominable mystery." To unlock the problem, scientists recently studied ancient grains of pollen (substance that causes plants to form seeds) from Portugal that are so small, they're invisible to the human eye. They concluded that flowering plants appeared at least 123 million years ago—about 2 million years earlier than first thought.

Learning about when flowers first appeared helps scientists understand more about how life on Earth developed and adapted to its surroundings. Flowering plants are part of a complex system. In order to reproduce, they attract insects to spread pollen. This creates homes and food for the insects, which in turn support many other creatures.

Flowers are now such a common sight that it's easy to think they've always been here. But for about 75% of the time plants have existed on Earth, there were no flowers at all. Instead, the planet was covered with plants like green conifer trees, mosses, and ferns (see box at right). Bright, colorful flowers came much later and spread so far around the world that they now make up 90% of all living plants, including most of our food.

Flowering plants, called angiosperms, are anything that produces a flower, including apple trees, roses, and even potato plants. Most flowering plants in the world are eudicots, which have two leaves that appear when they first sprout from the ground.



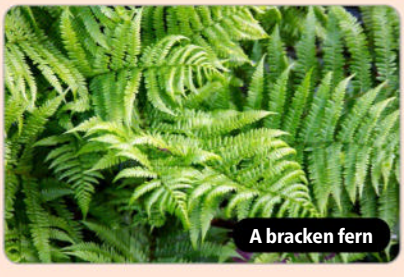
Where the prehistoric pollen was found

To find out when these flowering plants first appeared, researchers at two universities in Germany studied tiny pollen grains found in Portugal belonging to eudicot plants. The team thinks the pollen fell into a river millions of years ago and got washed downstream to an ancient ocean.

Over time the pollen got buried in rock, mud, and dirt and became part of a fossil. The oldest pollen grain the scientists studied was found in fossils that formed 123 million years ago. Before this, the oldest pollen, found in England in 1990, was believed to be 120.4 million years old.

The team of researchers hopes their new approach could help with future studies of fossilized plants. This could offer further insight into the major effect flowering plants have had on the way the world has evolved.

A very old plant



A bracken fern

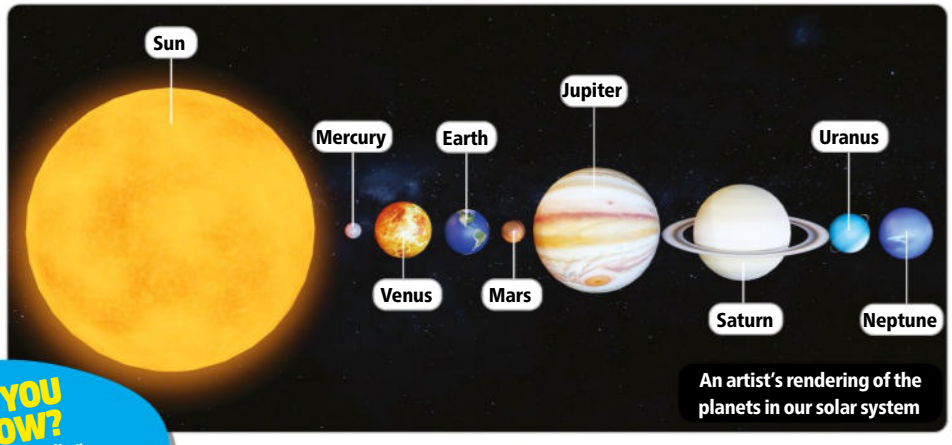
Ferns are ancient plants that have existed for about 300 million years. Dinosaurs, including the Diplodocus, would have grazed on ferns that grew at their feet. One species of fern is bracken, which is thought to be the most common plant in the world and grows on every continent except Antarctica. Its leaves, called fronds, unfurl over time and grow spores (reproductive cells) that are carried in the wind.

Bracken provides cover for small animals and food for caterpillars and moths. However, its leaves are poisonous and are unsafe for humans to eat. Bracken has many uses around the world, from relieving aches and pains to making glass. There are also many legends about its magical powers, including one that suggests it can make people invisible.

The planet Jupiter used to be bigger

Jupiter is the oldest and biggest planet in our solar system. If Earth were the size of a grape, Jupiter would be about as big as a basketball. Now a study has revealed that when the Sun and planets formed from a cloud of gas and dust called the solar nebula, Jupiter was twice as big as it is now.

The study found that about 4.5 billion years ago, Jupiter had a radius (distance from the center to the outside edge) more than twice its current size. That means 2,000 Earths could have fit inside it, compared with 1,321 today.



An artist's rendering of the planets in our solar system

DID YOU KNOW?
A day on Jupiter lasts 9.9 hours, which is the shortest day of any planet in our solar system.

To determine this, the team studied how two of Jupiter's moons, Amalthea and Thebe, orbit the planet. The tiny moons still follow paths similar to the ones they had when Jupiter first formed, but over time they have been slightly pulled away by another moon called Io. The team studied the changes in Amalthea and Thebe's paths, taking into account the nudges from Io, and were able to calculate Jupiter's original size.

The team drew these conclusions despite not fully understanding how Jupiter was formed. They know the surface is made of gas and covered with swirling cloud stripes and big storms, like the Great Red Spot that has been raging for hundreds of years. Yet no one knows what's going on deeper inside the planet's core.

The study was led by Konstantin Batygin from the California Institute of Technology. Batygin said the research "brings us closer to understanding how not only Jupiter but the entire solar system took shape."

Flavonoids give some foods their color.

Colorful mix of foods boosts health

A new study found that eating a variety of foods rich in flavonoids may increase life expectancy and reduce the risk of health issues. Flavonoids are natural substances that contribute to the intense color of certain foods, like blueberries, apples, tea, and dark chocolate.

For 10 years, scientists in the UK studied 124,805 participants ages 40 to 70, tracking their diets and flavonoid consumption. They found that people who consumed a higher quantity and variety of flavonoids had fewer health complications, including heart problems and diabetes. Those who ate the widest range of flavonoid-rich foods had an even lower risk of disease.

"Eating fruits and vegetables in a variety of colors, including those rich in flavonoids, means you're more likely to get the vitamins and nutrients you need to sustain a healthier lifestyle," said one of the study's lead authors.

AMAZING INVENTION

Dental floss that measures stress

The floss pick

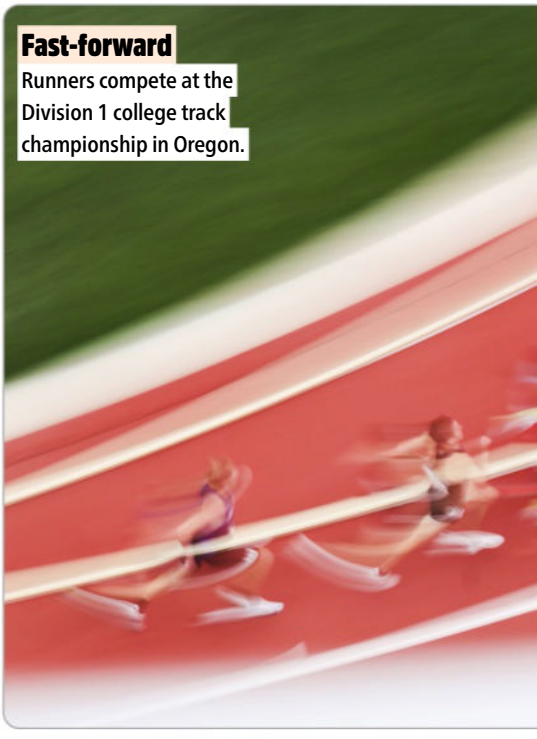
Stress can cause health problems, but monitoring stress can help people avoid them. That can be difficult to do, however, because current methods don't always work well. A new dental floss pick with built-in sensors solves this problem by measuring cortisol, a stress hormone, in saliva while the user flosses.

The floss draws saliva into the handle, where a tab with sensors detects cortisol levels. Scientists said it could also be used to monitor and detect other health issues like heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

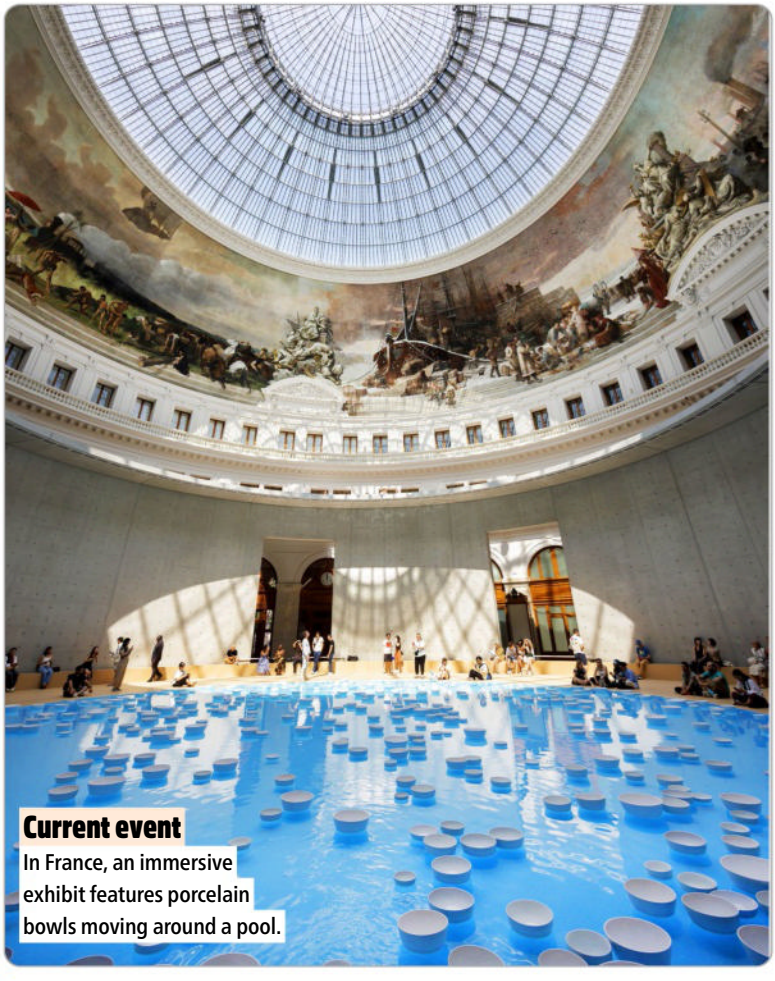
GETTY IMAGES (2); ATUL SHARMA AND NAFIZE ISHTIAQUE HOSSAIN; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); ULRICH HEIMHOFER/LUH

Photos of the week

Awesome art
A sand sculpture festival in Taiwan includes more than 40 carvings of famous characters.



Fast-forward
Runners compete at the Division 1 college track championship in Oregon.



Current event
In France, an immersive exhibit features porcelain bowls moving around a pool.

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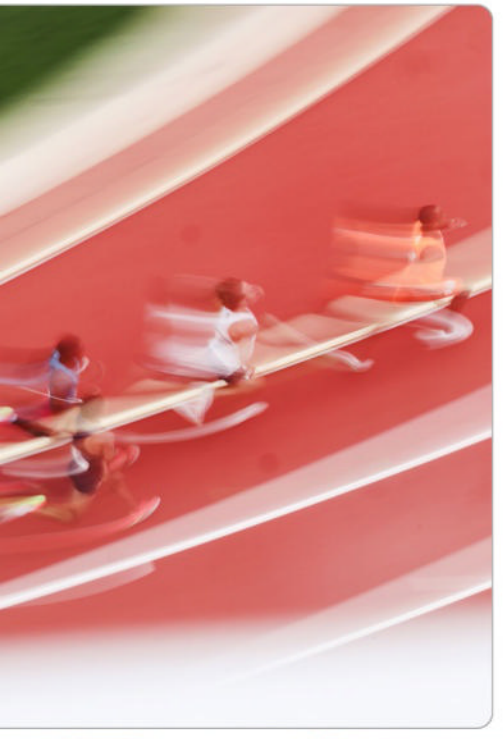
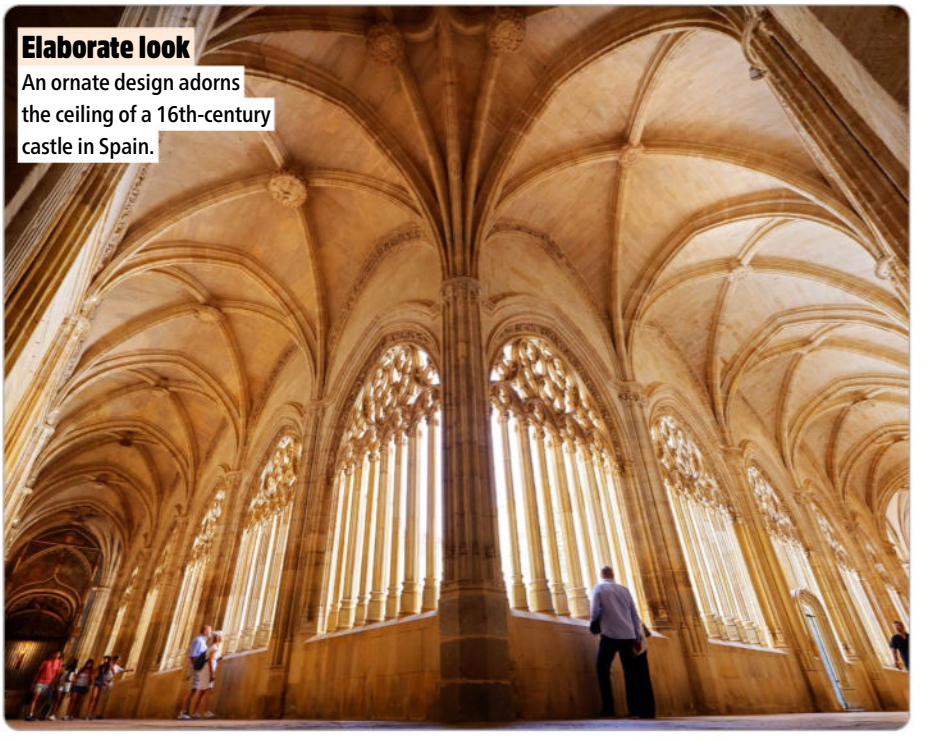
Photos of the week





Elaborate look
An ornate design adorns the ceiling of a 16th-century castle in Spain.

Sacred send-off
At a temple in Indonesia, people release a lantern for Buddha's birthday.

Colorful tradition
Children with brightly painted faces take part in an event in India.

FUN FACT
A hawk named Rufus has been used to scare pigeons away from Wimbledon's courts since 2008.

Jannik Sinner (left) and Iga Swiatek

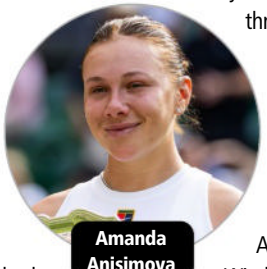
Officiating change

This year, cameras (above) and computers replaced human line judges at Wimbledon, and a computer-generated voice announced whether a ball was in or out. Electronic line-calling is meant to improve accuracy and consistency. Other Grand Slams already started using it.

Wimbledon champions crowned

After nearly two weeks, the 2025 Wimbledon Championships at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London, England, concluded on July 13. Wimbledon, which is played on grass courts, is one of the four most important tournaments in tennis, known as the Grand Slams.

In the women's singles final on July 12, Iga Swiatek of Poland, who was seeded (ranked) eighth, defeated Amanda Anisimova of the US, the 13th seed. Before the final, Swiatek had lost only one set in the tournament. She continued her dominant play against Anisimova, and it took her less than an hour to beat her, 6–0, 6–0, and earn her first Wimbledon title.


Amanda Anisimova

Swiatek is the first Polish player to win the championship in the Open Era, which began in 1968. She has now won six major titles and is the only active women's player to win one on three different court surfaces—grass, clay, and hard court—which is called a "Surface Slam."

In the semifinals, Anisimova, age 23, had upset the number one player, Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, to become the youngest American woman to reach a Wimbledon final since 2004. She had hoped to become the third consecutive American woman to win a Grand Slam singles title this year.

The men's singles final featured number one seed Jannik Sinner of Italy defeating number two seed Carlos Alcaraz of Spain, the defending champion. The victory earned Sinner his fourth Grand Slam title and first at Wimbledon. He is also the first Italian champion at the tournament. The final was a rematch of this year's French Open final, which Alcaraz won in a five-set thriller. To reach the Wimbledon final, Sinner beat sixth-seeded Serbian Novak Djokovic and Alcaraz beat Taylor Fritz of the US, the fifth seed and first American to reach a Wimbledon men's semifinal since 2018.

Sinner lost the first set of the final, 4–6, but took the next three, 6–4, 6–4, and 6–4, to win. Alcaraz had never lost a major final, and Sinner's win ended a five-match losing streak against the Spanish star. Combined, the two men have won the last seven men's singles Grand Slam titles, with Sinner winning four and Alcaraz taking three.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

The 2025 MLB Home Run Derby, an event leading up to the All-Star Game, was held on July 14. Eight players competed, and the champion was Cal Raleigh of the Seattle Mariners, who hit 18 homers in the final and 54 overall. He is the first catcher to win the derby. His father pitched to him, and his 15-year-old brother was his catcher. As of July 13, Raleigh had hit 38 home runs in games this season, the most in the MLB.

Zhu Yuling

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

Lionel Messi scored twice for Inter Miami CF in a 2–1 win over Nashville SC on July 12. It was his fifth straight MLS game with two goals, a league record. He now has 16 MLS goals this season.

TABLE TENNIS

On July 13, at the World Table Tennis (WTT) US Smash 2025, one of the biggest WTT events, Zhu Yuling of Macao pulled off a major comeback to beat Chen Yi of China and win the women's singles title.

PRIZE PAYOUT
Chelsea FC received more than $153 million for their Club World Cup performance, including $40 million for winning the title.

Chelsea FC celebrates with the Club World Cup trophy.

Chelsea wins Club World Cup

On July 13, the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup Final was played between Chelsea FC, a team from the UK, and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), a team from France, at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. PSG, who won the Champions League and two other big titles in the 2024–2025 season, came into the final as heavy favorites but were upset by Chelsea, who won the match, 3–0.

FIFA is the global governing body for soccer. The tournament was similar to the World Cup but featured 32 top professional club teams from 20 countries. The competition began on June 14, and matches were played across the US.

In the group stage, Chelsea and PSG each won two matches and lost one. In the knockout rounds, Chelsea defeated Portugal's SL Benfica and two Brazilian teams, Palmeiras and Fluminense. Meanwhile, PSG defeated US team Inter Miami, then beat Germany's Bayern Munich and Spain's Real Madrid, two of the most prestigious European clubs. PSG allowed one goal in the tournament before the championship match.

In the final, Chelsea's star forward Cole Palmer opened the scoring in the 22nd minute, then scored again eight minutes later. Just before halftime, he found teammate Joao Pedro with an excellent pass, leading to the third goal. PSG generated several scoring chances and controlled possession of the ball for 66.5% of the contest, but they were unable to get anything past Chelsea goalkeeper Robert Sanchez, who made six saves.

Palmer was named the Club World Cup's Best Player, and Sanchez received the Golden Glove award, which is given to the best goalkeeper.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Jonathan Underwood**

Organization: **Wood's Warriors Basketball Academy**

"Coach Underwood is truly dedicated and remarkable, always setting high expectations because he genuinely believes in our potential to achieve greatness. He enters us in tournaments against more advanced players, ensuring we push our limits and grow. His unwavering encouragement keeps us positive, even when facing tough opponents. Most practices end with engaging scrimmages, making them enjoyable and rewarding." Catherine, 12, Texas

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Anika Roche

AGE: 21 SPORT: ROWING
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Hitting the water I started rowing during my freshman year of high school. My mom had read a little bit about it and pressured me to try out for my school's team. I had played soccer and basketball my whole life, and she wanted me to row to work on my fitness for basketball. I was good at it from the jump, and that was one rea[illegible] stuck with it.

Group effort In soccer or basketball, if you need a break in the middle of a game, it's not going to ruin it for your team. When you're rowing in a race, you can't quit or back out—eight other people are relying on you. If you need a break, you're going to lose.

Boat basics Every rower would say that the most harrowing 15 seconds are the countdown leading up to a race and the start call. If you get in your head and think about the race in its entirety, you won't do what you need to be doing. So I think about things like staying calm, staying in my body, and breathing. My favorite thing about rowing is the feeling you get when the boat is perfectly set up and moving smoothly. It feels like you're flying.

Land life I've always idolized the US Women's National Soccer Team for their athletic excellence and social impact. I'm proud of the social impact I've had in college. I established a voter registration drive with the Big 10 conference and founded Bruin Pride Alliance, an LGBTQ student athlete group.

Her advice When you're participating in something, give 100% of your effort because you never know where that opportunity will lead you.

GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF UCLA ATHLETICS (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

WOW! The largest Lego sculpture Sean Kenney ever made is a rhino that is nearly 12 feet long and 6 feet tall.

Animals from *Sean Kenney's Nature Connects*

Garden art made of Lego bricks

Animals and other nature-themed creations designed by artist Sean Kenney are on display in Columbus, Ohio.

This summer, there are more than plants and flowers to see at the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Columbus, Ohio. As visitors explore the grounds, they will discover Lego sculptures of a fox, bunnies, a large snail, a giant hummingbird, and other garden-themed creations from the special exhibition *Sean Kenney's Nature Connects*.

Kenney is an award-winning artist and former *Lego Masters* guest judge known for making sculptures and portraits with Lego bricks. *Nature Connects* is one of five traveling shows with his art. It has been exhibited in nearly 100 cities. Bonnie DeRubertis, associate director of exhibitions at the conservatory, told *The Week Junior* that the exhibition has "messages about the natural world, conservation, and creativity."

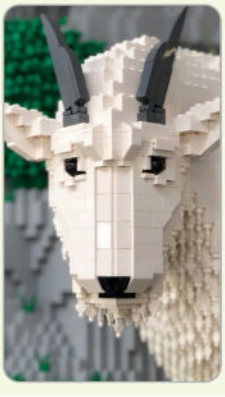
Sean Kenney

The sculptures, which arrived fully assembled, are held together with glue, and some are reinforced with steel for durability, DeRubertis said. Several of the sculptures were placed in locations that would make them stand out, while others are integrated into plantings that were designed by the conservatory's horticulture team (experts in growing plants). There is a link between the exhibition's theme and the way the pieces are built, DeRubertis said: "*Nature Connects* is about the interconnectedness of all things—just like Lego bricks click together, nature operates in a delicate balance of systems and relationships."

The hope is that visitors will leave appreciating that balance, feeling inspired to care for nature, and wanting to build, draw, "or just notice the small, beautiful patterns in the world," she said.

More Sean Kenney shows

Animal Super Powers



This science-focused exhibition highlights what makes many animal species special. It includes sculptures of goats (right), pandas, and polar bears. It will be shown in Jackson, Mississippi, in 2026.

Brick Planet

The artist's newest show made its world premiere in Las Vegas, Nevada, in May. It centers on the world's different ecosystems and includes a lion from the African savanna (right) and Arctic penguins. *Brick Planet* heads to Denver, Colorado, this fall.

Nature Pop!

More than 40 vibrant sculptures, such as a rainbow-striped eagle (right) and an enormous blue and green dragonfly, are featured in this exhibition. It is on display in Charleston, South Carolina, until August 15.

MOVIE HISTORY
The shark thriller *Jaws* came out in June 1975 and is considered the first summer blockbuster.

Jurassic World Rebirth

Big hits at the summer box office

Dinosaurs and dragons are luring audiences to movie theaters this summer. Two of the biggest films so far have been the sci-fi adventure *Jurassic World Rebirth* and the live-action fantasy *How to Train Your Dragon*. *Rebirth* was released on July 2 and was the number one film at the US box office over the Fourth of July holiday weekend. After nearly two weeks, it has earned $232 million in the US and $529 million worldwide. Meanwhile, *How to Train Your Dragon* has earned $560 million worldwide since its release on June 13.

Rebirth is the seventh *Jurassic Park* film, and it features an all-new setting and characters. Globally, it made $322 million in its first weekend, the second-biggest opening for the franchise behind *Jurassic World* (2015). *Rebirth* director Gareth Edwards told Syfy Wire that making the film was about "creating anticipation, surprise, and having [audiences] leave and want to go back and watch it again."

How to Train Your Dragon

How to Train Your Dragon, a remake of the popular 2010 animated film, has been more than a financial success. The film earned a 98% audience score on the movie review website Rotten Tomatoes, the best score ever for a live-action remake of an animated film. Another live-action adaptation of an animated film, *Lilo & Stitch*, is also a big hit. It came out on May 23 and is expected to be the first film of 2025 to cross the $1 billion mark at the box office. Plans for a sequel are already underway.

Moviegoers are also heading to theaters to see DC Studios' *Superman*, which arrived July 11 and has earned $122 million in the US. Meanwhile, expectations are high for Marvel's *The Fantastic Four: First Steps*, which comes out on July 25.

READER RECOMMENDS

Family Reunion *(Netflix)*

"This sitcom is about the McKellan family, who move from the big city of Seattle, Washington, to the small town of Columbus, Georgia, where their grandparents live. There are four McKellan kids: teen Jade and younger siblings Shaka, Ami, and Mazzi. The show explores different parts of their lives and sometimes includes flashbacks to their grandmother M'Dear's childhood. I love this show because every episode is different and full of fun and humor." Josie, 10, Oregon

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Zombies 4: Dawn of the Vampires
(Disney+)
The *Zombies* musicals follow human cheerleader Addison and her zombie boyfriend, football player Zed. In this new film, they work as counselors, meet new characters Nova, a Daywalker, and Victor, a vampire (together above), and try to stop their dangerous feud.

Snoopy Presents: A Summer Musical
(Apple TV+)
In this special, Charlie Brown wants to make the most of his last summer at camp while Sally adjusts to her first. Snoopy and Woodstock also find items from past summer concerts, inspiring the gang to organize an important fundraiser.

All the Sharks
(Netflix)
Four teams of shark experts race to find and photograph as many species as they can in this new competition series. The teams earn points for what they see, and rarer species have more value. Each episode is set in a different location, including the Caribbean and the deep Pacific.

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS (2); COURTESY OF NETFLIX (2); DISNEY; APPLE TV+; ON LEFT PAGE: FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY & BOTANICAL GARDENS; COURTESY OF SEAN KENNEY (4)

STRIKE UP THE BAND
Auburn University's marching band recorded the main theme song for EA Sports College Football 26.

EA Sports College Football 26

Get into college football action

College football games begin in August, but the season has already kicked off for gamers. EA Sports College Football 26 was recently released exclusively for PlayStation 5 and Xbox series X|S consoles.

This year's game has teams from 136 colleges and more than 10,000 real players. There are two star players on the cover of the game's standard edition: Jeremiah Smith of Ohio State University—the reigning College Football Playoff National Champions—and Ryan Williams of the University of Alabama.

To make the game more realistic than ever, updated features include more than 2,700 new plays and over 300 real college coaches. There are also authentic team runouts at the start of a game and lighting that changes depending on where the on-screen action is taking place. There is also a health tracker so you can monitor players and replace them before they get injured.

As always, you can play one-off exhibition games, but for a more in-depth experience, you can choose Dynasty Mode to play as a coach and oversee an entire football program. The game has a transfer portal, too, so you can add new players to your team. Meanwhile, in Road to Glory mode, you can control a high school star and guide him up to college and beyond. The goal is to have him win the Heisman Trophy, the top award in college football.

For the first time, cross-play between Xbox Series X|S and PlayStation 5 systems is available, so in certain modes you can play online with friends, adding more fun to the competitions.

Ryan Williams (left) and Jeremiah Smith

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

GRIMM, GRIMMER, GRIMMEST

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other platforms

Hear classic fairy tales retold by *A Tale Dark & Grimm* author Adam Gidwitz in this storytime podcast, which is now in its fifth season. There are plots such as royal rivalries and games of hide-and-seek with evil wizards, and each story is rated on a "grimness scale" so listeners know what to expect.

GAME OF THE WEEK

GROW A GARDEN

Google Play, Roblox

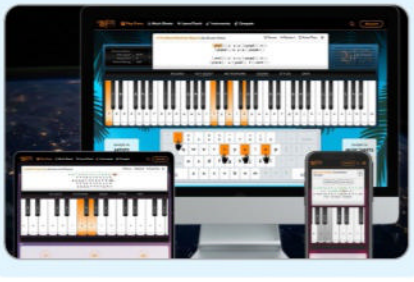
This simulation game is such a hit that on one day in June, 16.4 million Roblox users were playing it at the same time. The objective is to create a dream farm as you plant seeds, collect pets, and trade items. You can earn points by selling your harvests, then unlock tools or add greenhouses and ponds.

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

VIRTUAL PIANO

virtualpiano.net

Enhance your musical skills with this online piano. You can improvise, practice tunes you know, or search the site for sheet music from a variety of genres. Instead of reading notes, you follow keyboard letters. The piano's sound can be changed to instruments such as a harp or oboe too.



ELECTRONIC ARTS INC. (2); PINNA ORIGINAL; THE GARDEN GAME; CRYSTAL MAGIC STUDIO LTD.

SUMMER OF READING FEATURED PICK

Tyger

By SF Said, illustrated by Dave McKean
(Penguin Workshop)

This thrilling new novel, first published in the UK in 2022, takes place in an alternate version of London, England, where nearly all animals are extinct. Adam is a young boy whose family is Muslim and runs an alterations shop in a poor urban area. When Adam makes deliveries for his family's store to the wealthier part of the city, he is often harassed by guards and thieves. While being chased one day, Adam escapes through a secret door that turns out to be a gateway to another realm. He encounters Tyger, a mystical beast that resembles a jungle cat. Tyger is wounded after escaping from a sinister nobleman. Tyger needs Adam to help her locate a gateway that will allow her to return to other realms and save this version of Earth from dying. Adam and his friend Zadie, whose father has a connection to the gateway's mysterious Guardians, embark on a quest through the streets of London to save Tyger and the world. Adam will need to tap into his hidden powers to succeed. The book's artwork captures Adam's dire surroundings and the majesty of Tyger. You may want to flip through the book a second time, focusing solely on the illustrations.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Tyger fearlessly tackles themes of prejudice and greed while also weaving in ideas of hope and the possibility of a better world. Here are questions to get a conversation going with friends and family who have also read the book.

Who is your favorite character in the story ?

Even though Adam was born in London, why do you think some characters describe him as a foreigner?

Why do you think Tyger took the form of a tiger in a world where tigers don't exist?

How do Adam and Zadie's talents in art and writing help them in their struggles?

What is the significance of the many doors and gateways in the story?

How does this story remind you of *The Hunger Games*, a dystopian novel you may have read?

Our list of "The 50 Books Kids Love Most," details about entering our Summer of Reading sweepstakes, and more can be found at kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.

Ask the Author Ambassador

SF Said, a British author, has written four novels for children. *Tyger* is his most recent published work, which has won prizes in the UK.

Where did you get your inspiration for the novel?

It was first sparked when I was younger and one of my teachers read the poem *The Tyger* by William Blake. Blake spelled Tyger with a "y" and I was fascinated by that.

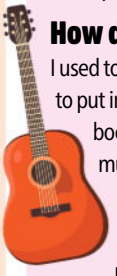
How long did it take you to write the story?

Nine years passed between the first and final drafts. I wanted the book to be the best page-turning adventure I could imagine and be full of big questions and ideas.

Is the US version different from the UK version?

We swapped out a few words that don't mean the same in America as they do in Britain, but that's about it. I was also able to keep all the wonderful illustrations.

How did you start writing?



I used to play the guitar. All the energy I used to put into writing music, I put into writing books. I'd like to think that there's a musical quality to the prose I write.

Have you read any kids' books as an adult?

I recently read *A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. Le Guin, and it blew me away!

What's the benefit of a book compared to a movie?

You use your imagination more because authors create a framework for you to create a story in your head. In movies, you're shown what everything looks and sounds like.

What country would you most like to visit someday?

Morocco. A friend of mine just traveled there, and she really loved it.

BOOK: COURTESY OF PUBLISHER; AUTHOR: COURTESY SF SAID; GETTY IMAGES

DID YOU KNOW?
The eagle was the first animal to appear on a US circulating coin, followed by the bison.

Get smart about saving

Learn the basics of budgeting to make your money go even further.

Knowing how to manage money is an important life skill. Maybe you have birthday gift cards, an allowance, or money you made this summer from walking dogs, washing the family car, or babysitting. Creating a budget will help you save up for things you want now and be smarter about finances in the future. Here's how you can explore what it means to budget, save, and spend your money wisely.

Open a bank account

If you don't have a savings account, you could talk to a parent about opening one at a bank. The bank is the safest place to keep your money, and you will earn interest on it. This means that the bank will pay you a small amount for keeping an account with them, and your money will grow over time.

Do small jobs to earn cash.

Track your spending

A budget is a plan for how to use your money. When you create a budget, you know how much money you have and how it's spent. Write down everything you spend money on for the next two weeks. Then set aside time to evaluate what you bought. Was everything you purchased worth it?

Think in threes

One way to plan a budget is to put your gift money, allowance, and other earnings into three categories: spend, save, and give. (Many adults also think along these lines when they create their household budget!) This will ensure that you have money to spend on small things (like ice cream with friends), save for something bigger (such as art supplies), and donate to charity (like an animal shelter or food bank).

To help with this, you can label three jars with "spend," "save," and "give" and divide your money among them. Or keep a running list of how much you have designated for each category.

You can choose to split your money into three equal parts or divide it in a different way among the three options.

Set a savings goal

To avoid spending your money too quickly, set a goal. Think about the things you really want. It can be something physical like a bike, an activity like ballet lessons, or an experience like a trip to an amusement park. Figure out how much you'll need for that goal, and slowly work toward it. You'll feel a sense of accomplishment when you reach your goal.

Organize a yard sale

A great way to make money is to have a yard sale. With an adult's help, follow these steps.

Select a date Consider factors like weather when picking a day and time for your sale. With an adult's assistance, make colorful fliers with the details.

Gather items Start "shopping" your closet, drawers, toy box, and garage for items to sell, then set prices. Be sure to have small bills on hand to make change.

Host your sale Greet customers who stop by, and be sure an adult is there to supervise at all times. To sell more items, try "bundling" them—such as five books for $3. Happy selling!

SWEET STUFF
Coarse sugar, which is made of larger crystals than those in table sugar, is also known as decorating, shimmering, or sparkling sugar.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using the stove or oven.

Bake up cinnamon apple pie fries

Ingredients

- 3 apples, peeled, cored, and finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- ¾ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon salted butter
- All-purpose flour
- 2 (9-inch) rounds refrigerated pie dough
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons coarse sugar
- Whipped cream or caramel sauce, for dipping

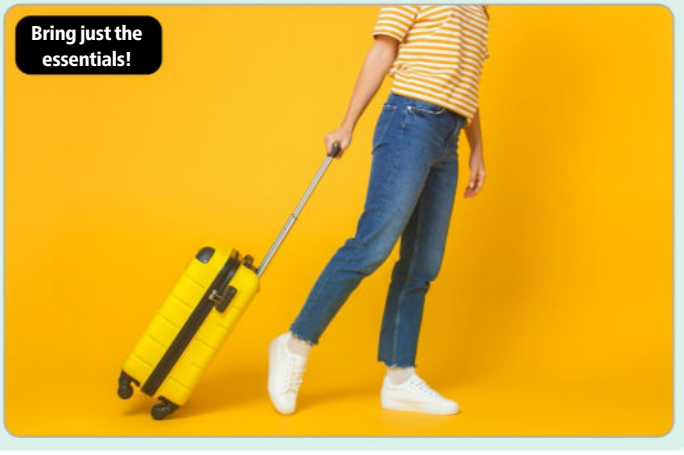
Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 400° F and line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. In a heavy pot over medium heat, combine apples, granulated and brown sugars, cinnamon, and lemon zest with ¼ cup water. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the apples are softened, about 8 minutes. Remove apples from the heat.
2. In a small bowl, stir the cornstarch with 2 tablespoons of water. Pour the mixture into the apples and stir with a wooden spoon until thickened. Stir in the butter, then lightly mash the apples with the back of the spoon. Let cool for 10 minutes.
3. On a floured surface, roll each dough round into a 12-inch circle. Spread apple mixture evenly over one of the rounds, then top mixture with the other dough round. Use a pizza cutter to slice the filled dough into 1-inch-wide strips, then cut each strip into 4- to 5-inch lengths. Put fries 1 inch apart on prepared baking sheets.
4. In a small bowl, whisk egg with 1 tablespoon of water. Brush fries with the egg wash and sprinkle with coarse sugar. Bake until golden brown, about 15 minutes. Let cool slightly, then serve with whipped cream or caramel sauce for dipping. Makes about 6 servings.

ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

PACK LIGHT FOR YOUR NEXT TRIP

Packing light for a trip makes traveling easier. Your bag won't be as heavy to carry, and you'll be able to find whatever you need inside it much more quickly. By packing light, you'll also be helping the environment. Hauling heavier luggage, whether by plane, train, or car, requires more fuel. Lighter luggage requires less fuel, which helps reduce the greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere. So think through what you really need. Pack no more than one outfit for each day, and choose clothes you can mix and match so you can wear things more than once. Shoes are heavy, so limit those. Take travel sizes of toiletries and paperback books instead of hardcover.



JOY HOWARD; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Crisscross

Each of these words associated with a Renaissance fair fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

4 letters
BARD
GARB
GOWN
TENT

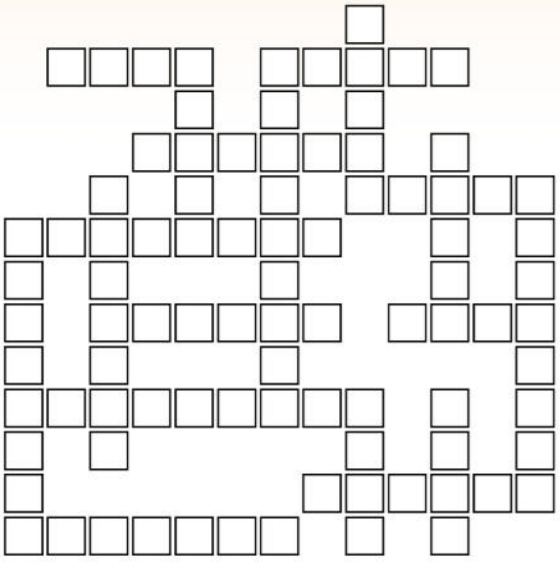
5 letters
BOOTH
CROWN
JOUST
KNAVE
TUNIC

6 letters
HUZZAH
ROYALS
SWORDS

7 letters
ARCHERY
LEATHER

8 letters
COSTUMES
MERCHANT
MINSTREL

9 letters
CHAIN MAIL
TURKEY LEG



Take five

Five 5-letter things seen in the sky are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five?

K	L	A	S	P
C	E	I	E	S
S	I	O	M	E
B	T	E	R	D
G	L	T	U	S

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters S-U-M. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

1. Season when school's out — SUM ☐☐☐
2. Nocturnal tree animal — ☐☐☐☐SUM
3. Top of a mountain — SUM ☐☐☐
4. Someone who eats or buys something — ☐☐☐SUM☐☐
5. Army post where the Civil War started — ☐☐☐☐SUM☐☐☐

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

4					1
	1			5	
		1	6		
		6	5		
	3			2	
1					4

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a luna moth appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

All the same hint: In number 5, the letter after SUM is T.

Leaping into a new year

Lemur celebrates long life

Stumpy the ring-tailed lemur marked a major milestone last month. It was his 39th birthday, making him the oldest lemur living in captivity. Ring-tailed lemurs typically live 15 to 25 years in human care, and keepers at Five Sisters Zoo in Scotland say Stumpy, who is a great-great grandfather, is surprisingly fit for his age. On the big day, Stumpy enjoyed a special cake with two of his sons: Red, age 21, and Julian, age 20. A Guinness World Records official said, "Stumpy has truly earned his stripes!"

Some prefer a rocky road.

Testing ice cream endurance

As if hiking one of the world's longest trails isn't enough of a feat, the "half-gallon challenge" puts a trekker's tummy to the test. A tradition among "thru-hikers" who walk the 2,197-mile Appalachian Trail in a single trip, this challenge takes place at a store near the trail's halfway point. Adventurers try to eat a half-gallon of ice cream in one sitting while an employee records their time to see if they'll break the record of 3 minutes and 37 seconds. The store's manager said it's "one more thing" they can say they accomplished.

Fly out and lock in.

An island retreat with a twist

While most people go on vacation to escape from the toils of schoolwork, a visit to "Youth Island" is a time to buckle down. On this human-made island in Denmark, volunteers host retreats for 20 to 40 college students who want to get away from distractions and focus on academics. All day, the students work on school projects or study for exams. When evening comes, they can cook together, swim, and enjoy seaside saunas. "You just have sun and blue sky," said one volunteer, "and some nice places to study."

Was it arm candy?

Chocolate handbag mayhem

Among the leftovers stored in the fridge, Ella Katz discovered her roommate's $250 "handbag." In fact, the fancy bag was made of chocolate. Katz picked up the confection while making a video for social media, but its handle broke off and it dropped and smashed on the floor. "I just broke the chocolate purse!" she exclaimed in the video. Many people commented on it, including one person who said you shouldn't touch things that aren't yours. Is this a true story, or is it a sweet deceit?*

*Real! The Chocolate Egg Bag, made by chef Maxime Frédéric for the luxury fashion brand Louis Vuitton, was available in stores until mid-July. Ella Katz's video went viral after she accidentally shattered the expensive chocolate treat.

FIVE SISTERS ZOO: GETTY IMAGES (2); ALAMY (2); ADOBE STOCK; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Editor's note

Our 2025 Summer of Reading program is coming to a close! We hope you've enjoyed the special content we've published over the past six issues and that you'll be intrigued by this week's featured book pick—*Tyger* by SF Said, one of our Author Ambassadors (p23). Thank you so much to him and our other ambassadors—Pablo Cartaya, Grace Lin, Meg Medina, and Rita Williams-Garcia—for being a part of this year's program. The fun isn't over yet! You can enter our Summer of Reading sweepstakes until August 8. All you need to do is read three books of your choice and follow the instructions in the red box below. And if there's a favorite book you've enjoyed reading this summer, we'd love to know what it is! Have an adult send us a photo of you holding the book, along with a sentence about why you loved it, to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. We'll publish some of the submissions we receive in future issues.

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

Writing a book to help beaches

Aubrey, 12, and Charlie, 12, Hawaii

"Since we were young, we have been passionate about caring for the beach. We decided to write a book called *What's Wrong with Rainbow Sand?* The "rainbow sand" in the title refers to the colorful microplastics we see on the beach that are harmful to the environment. We wrote the book to help educate other kids about the issue of microplastics as part of our Girl Scout Silver Award project. We also hosted a microplastic collage event at one of our local libraries. We're thrilled to help spread the word about reducing plastic!"

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Where do fish like to shop for worms?

Online

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

World Animal Protection

This organization works to end animal cruelty in more than 50 countries. It campaigns for policies that will improve the conditions for animals living in captivity, cares for animals affected by natural disasters, and more. The group was instrumental in getting a law passed in the US that bans the private ownership of big cats, such as lions and tigers. Find out more at worldanimalprotection.us.

SUMMER OF READING

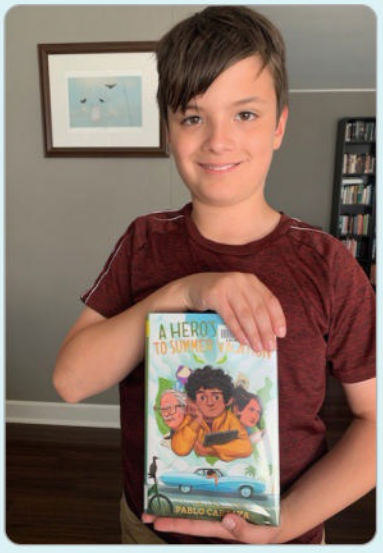
Enter to win books!

This is the sixth and final issue of our Summer of Reading campaign! We hope you enjoy our interview with Author Ambassador SF Said and a review of his new book, *Tyger* (p23). Our reading challenge continues! Once you've finished any three books, go to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ReadingChallenge2025 with an adult to enter our sweepstakes. Five kids will win! All winners will be drawn at random. The deadline to enter is August 8. For our list of "The 50 Books Kids Love Most," go to kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.

Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I'm currently reading *A Hero's Guide to Summer Vacation*. I picked it up from my library, and I can't wait to know what happens at the end!" Jude, 10, Illinois

"I was so excited about this issue to pick out books for my library's summer reading program—my goal is to read 50 books!" Ellie, 9, California

"I was very excited to get the Nintendo Switch 2 on the day it got released!" Jayden, 8, Texas

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Ms. Rohlin**

School: **Essex Elementary School**

"Ms. Rohlin is so kind. She leads us in math mysteries, where we have to figure out all five clues in order to solve a bigger mystery. Ms. Rohlin encourages us to stop, look, and listen to help us engage with our classmates. She also pushes us to do the things we love, even if they are hard, and she always encourages us to keep going. This is why I think she is one of the best teachers."

Finley, 8, Vermont

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Take five
kites
cloud
stars
blimp
geese

All the same
1. summer
2. opossum
3. summit
4. consumer
5. Fort Sumter

4	6	5	2	3	1
2	1	3	4	5	6
5	2	1	6	4	3
3	4	6	5	1	2
6	3	4	1	2	5
1	5	2	3	6	4

Quiz answers (from page 30) **1** "Bouncy pork" **2** b) 1987 **3** True **4** b) Neil Armstrong **5** True **6** *Blooming Futures* **7** False. They spent more time sniffing the scent of a stranger. **8** b) 136 **9** False. *Jurassic World Rebirth* was number one that weekend. **10** Rings **11** a) London, England **12** Lego bricks **13** b) MI6 **14** True **15** Stumpy

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What does pygmy hippo Moo Deng's name mean in the Thai language?

2 Eli Willits is the youngest player to be picked first overall in the Major League Baseball draft since what year?
a) 1977 b) 1987 c) 1997
a☐ b☐ c☐

3 True or false? Flowering plants make up 90% of all living plant species.
True☐ False☐

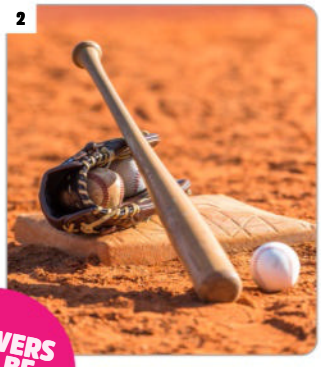
4 Which NASA astronaut took the first steps on the Moon?
a) Buzz Aldrin b) Neil Armstrong
c) Michael Collins
a☐ b☐ c☐

5 True or false? Amanda Anisimova is the youngest American woman to reach a Wimbledon final since 2004.
True☐ False☐

6 What is the title of the mural in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, that was painted to honor *Abbott Elementary* creator Quinta Brunson?

7 True or false? In a study, cats spent more time sniffing the scent of their owner than the scent of a stranger.
True☐ False☐

8 How many college teams are there in the game EA Sports College Football 26?
a) 117 b) 136 c) 172
a☐ b☐ c☐



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

9 True or false? *How to Train Your Dragon* was the number one film at the US box office over the Fourth of July weekend.
True☐ False☐

10 During friendly interactions with humans, humpback whales blow bubbles in what shape?

11 The novel *Tyger* takes place in an alternate version of what city?
a) London, England
b) Paris, France
c) Rome, Italy
a☐ b☐ c☐

12 The exhibit *Sean Kenney's Nature Connects* features sculptures made out of what?

13 Blaise Metreweli will be the first woman to lead which government agency in the UK?
a) MI5
b) MI6
c) MI7
a☐ b☐ c☐

14 True or false? Jupiter, the biggest planet in the solar system, used to be even bigger.
True☐ False☐

15 What is the name of the oldest living lemur in captivity?

THE WEEK Junior

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